

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 28, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 15-21, 24, 26, 27, 30, and 31 were pending in the present application. Claims 27, 30, and 31 are allowed. This Amendment amends claims 1, 6-8, 12, 18, and 26; and cancels claims 4, 15, 19-21, and 24; leaving pending in the application claims 1, 6-12, 16-18, 26, 27, 30, and 31. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Claims 27, 30, and 31 are allowed.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

The non-allowed claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by *Aoki* (US 7,194,484) or rendered obvious by *Aoki* in view of what was well known in the art at the time of the invention. Although Applicants do not agree with the rejections, the non-allowed independent claims have each been amended expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter. In particular, each independent claim now recites a limitation acknowledged to be allowable on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, namely logic to determine if an “email address should be marked as invalid based on the failure type determined and the corresponding ISP associated with the email address.” Applicants thus respectfully submit that the amended independent claims, and their respective independent claims, thus are also allowable. Applicants reserve the right to argue the rejections and official notice against the claims in any continuing application presenting the same or similar claims.

As each claim now contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified or addressed in the remarks section, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any

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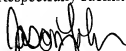
equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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